2/16/70

Dear Howard,

I have no recollection of Schwartz. How did he find out about you? I'll be interested in know what he sought, said, indicated, what you think after speaking to him.

While I'm smoking less, and no cigars, I am smoking more than when I wrote, for I'm fighting too many tensions at once.

Panel: DJ has ignored my reference to the law, requiring that they make automatic referral to any that might be the agency of "paramount" interest. Of course, they are, and as they know, they must know what they did with it. If they gave it to the Kennedys, as is not impossible, it is also illegal. But I believe they are required to tell me. We'll see. This suit will have to be prepared for carefully. We are close to ready on the King/Ray one. Your interpretation of the Garnes letter is reasonable, for this would be customary-esp. if they anticipated it would be changed or that they'd be bludgeoned into agreeing with what they hadn't really wanted to say. It is also possible that, with Fisher acting as the ramrod, he may have kept all their records.

No not worry about Nichols' copyrights keeping me from using what is not his. He has done nothing of great interest to me. The one thing I learned from him in confidence made me ashamed of myself for not realizing it, and I left it out of my writing. If full-body X-rays were made and read, why probe? The bullets or fragments would have to show in them. However, I now have reason to believe this did not originate with him, for it is in Couts. His side-neck work duplicates what I earlier had from Whitney Joy, what Forman did, etc. His bullet-pictures, shells, rather, are not his work. I have receipts for the pictures we had taken, for they were charged to me. so there is no question of ownership. My greatest concern is the end this can bring to what, after so long a period, is just beginning to bear such wondrous fruit, as you have seen.

Between them, if I had it, Fink and Specter are not worth $185.00. However, if you have a tape, I'l appreciate a dub . 17/8 is adequate, will take less tape, and I can play it on my large machine. Or, if you can do it on up to a 5" reel, I can listen on a machine from which I can more readily transcribe any segments I may want, having a foot-control for it.

For your own thinking, consider whether, with the bullet firmly held, and with magnification, a man with reasonable skill could not have removed another portion of the 399 base. A man with not only lab skills, where this is done all the time, but even a jeweler. I think that with a proper lens mounted and thin sharp implements, I could. I am certain Dick could, as his existing work suggests to me.

Your should now realize, if you didn't earlier, that in telling you to make the test with your father, I knew the answer. Part is in PMIII, the rest in my Perry memo. He did it erect and told me it was 2" down on the back at least, with him I'll be interested in seeing your pix when you have them. Please, however, restrict distribution of this memo, which merely duplicates my work, to Dick, at least for the moment. Gary already knows what the result has to be. He has my work on it. But for your own writing, I suggest you try and learn the length of the JFK neck, if this is possible. I do not recommend much time be spent on it, though. Perhps his tailor has it.

Hastily,